

# What Causes Low Vision?

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Most people develop low vision because of eye diseases like age-related macular degeneration (AMD), cataracts, and glaucoma, or as a result of diabetes. Some people get low vision from other eye diseases, injuries, or birth defects.

## Normal Vision



## Cataract

People with cataracts, a clouding of the lens, see through a haze.



Approximately **470,200 Virginians, 356,500 Marylanders, and 38,300 D.C. residents** age 40 and older have cataracts.

## Macular Degeneration

A leading cause of vision loss in older Americans, AMD results in loss of central vision and some blurring.



Approximately **35,700 Virginians, 27,400 Marylanders, and 2,700 D.C. residents** age 50 and older have age-related macular degeneration.

## Diabetic Retinopathy

Vision can become blurred in diabetic retinopathy, due to bleeding in the back of the eye (retina).



Approximately **131,000 Virginians, 99,200 Marylanders, and 11,500 D.C. residents** age 18 and older have diabetic retinopathy.

## Glaucoma

Glaucoma often has no early warning signs. Later the field of vision may narrow.



Approximately **56,300 Virginians, 45,700 Marylanders, and 7,300 D.C. residents** age 40 and older have glaucoma.



**THE EYE SITE: A Traveling Exhibit on Low Vision for Shopping Centers** was developed by the National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.